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Letters Between the English and the American
Branches of the Tilghman Family,
1697-1764.

EDITED BY
HARRISON TILGHMAN

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LETTERS BETWEEN THE ENGLISH AND AMERICAN
BRANCHES OF THE TILGHMAN FAMILY,
1697-1764.

Edited by HARRISON TILGHMAN.

In a desk of my late father, Oswald Tilghman (b. 7 Mar. 1841; d. 17 June 1932), I recently located copies of certain letters which during the colonial period passed between the then primary representatives of the Tilghman family in Maryland (Richard Tilghman II of The Hermitage, 1672-1738; and his successor in title to that property, Richard Tilghman III, 1705-1766) on the one hand, and on the other (as will appear from the correspondence), the then surviving representatives of the name remaining in England, who likewise derived it from

William Tilghman "the younger" of Holloway Court, Snodland, co. Kent, England (b. *circa* 1518; d. 1593/4). The first and final letters here included were later located elsewhere.

The "desk" copies in my possession, are on paper which, according to an expert who saw them about a year ago, was produced about the year 1790 and in a handwriting typical of that period. The following transcripts adhere as closely as I am able to the spelling and punctuation therein. It does not follow of course that the first transcriber was a faultless copyist or that there are no errors of transcription in either instance.

The respective relationships of the several parties to this correspondence will be more apparent from the following summary.

As appeared in part in the sketch of the "Tilghman Family" by Dr. Christopher Johnston, published in the first volume of the *Maryland Historical Magazine*, the aforesaid William Tilghman (known as "the younger" to distinguish him from his grandfather William Tilghman "the elder") married four times. By his first wife, he left a son Edward Tilghman (b. about 1542; buried, according to the registers of All Saints Church, Snodland, Kent, 23 Dec. 1611) who in turn had a son Francis Tilghman, who signed the Visitation of Kent, 1619, and died without male issue surviving.

William Tilghman "the younger" signed the Visitation of Kent, 1574 (published comparatively recently by the Harleian Society) and this shows him as then married to his fourth wife "Susan" (otherwise Susanna) Whetenhall. There was apparently no issue by either the second or third wives, and none then in being by the fourth wife. However, five sons and one daughter were the subsequent fruit of the fourth marriage. Of the sons, two, Whetenhall Tilghman, the eldest, and his next younger brother, Oswald Tilghman (b. *circa* 1581, d. Jan. 1628/9) survived to maturity and left male issue. The only son of Oswald Tilghman to survive infancy and to leave issue was Dr. Richard Tilghman, the progenitor of the family in Maryland.

Whetenhall Tilghman (b. *circa* 1576 and still living in the year 1652) was the father of six sons, all bearing Biblical names, as did also his grandson, and great-grandson with whom this correspondence was conducted by the immediate descendants of Dr. Richard Tilghman. The fourth son, Samuel Tilghman, was the first of the family to arrive in Maryland. He was appointed Admiral of Maryland by Lord Baltimore (Cæcilius Calvert) on the 15th of July 1658 (Calvert Papers No. 205) and though he never settled in Maryland, and ultimately returned to England, he made frequent voyages here. Doubtless he largely influenced his cousin, Dr. Richard Tilghman, to migrate to a region where he had found the country attractive and the government of the period satisfactory to men of their outlook. It seems likely that these two men were thrown together from childhood, for Richard was but an infant at the time of his father's death, and Oswald Tilghman's will makes mention of his brother Whetenhall in a way which would seem to indicate that the latter (who lived to advanced age) would reciprocate his brother's generosity. At any rate conditional grants for 1000 acres each in closely identical terms were issued to both Samuel and Richard Tilghman in January 1657 by Lord Baltimore.

It appears from the correspondence that Dr. Richard Tilghman had married Mary Foxley in England and, in the year 1660, came to Maryland bringing with him not only his wife, but their then living children, a son (William) and a daughter (Mary). The son William lived to maturity, but died shortly thereafter unmarried. Richard Tilghman (II of The Hermitage) was born 23 Feb. 1672 in Maryland. As was the case with respect to his father before him, he was very young when his father died (Dr. Richard Tilghman's will was proved 6 Mar. 1675). As a consequence of the death of his elder brother William unmarried, Richard Tilghman II became the possessor of The Hermitage and the only channel through which the male line from William Tilghman "the younger" continued to survive after the death, without male issue surviving, of Abraham Tilghman, second of that name, one of the parties to this correspondence.

This Abraham Tilghman (II), it appears, was born about the year 1692 (or 1691 old style) as writing under date of 26 January 1760, he states: "I * * * entered on my 69 year on the 17th inst." It is to be recognized in this connection that the change to the Gregorian calendar in England and the colonies became effective on the 1st of January next following the 31st of December 1751, and that otherwise the year 1751 would have continued to and including the 24th of March next following as in prior years (24 Geo. 2 Cap. 23).

He was the son of an elder Abraham Tilghman, who was the writer of the first of the following letters. Abraham Tilghman (I) may be further identified by a letter from him to Samuel Pepys written from "Deptford," February 9, 1686, acquainting Mr. Pepys with the death of the wife of Pepys' wife's brother, Commiss^r St. Mitchell (See Correspondence of Samuel Pepys appended to his *Diary* as published by Bickers and Son, London, 1879, Vol. VI at page 151). The elder Abraham Tilghman was the son of Nathaniel Tilghman (son of Whetenhall Tilghman), and according to a certain record was born in 1651 and died in April 1729.

I have found certain discrepancies in dates which I have not been fully able to adjust either within the correspondence or with other data. Of course it is apparent that letters forming part of the original correspondence are missing from the file of copies. In all, however, the copies which are available supply an interesting history of the family during the period covered as well as important side lights upon events in both England and America. Perhaps no more prophetic forecast was ever made of the future in store for what were then the British colonies in North America than that contained in the letter from Abraham Tilghman under date of March 21, 1743, the eighth in the series.

The copy from which the first letter is taken was found by me in the volume of *Paradise Lost* which was presented to Peregrine Tilghman by Rev. P. Crompton (the son-in-law of Abraham Tilghman, the younger)

when visiting England in 1764. It is on paper of more recent manufacture than the "desk" copies in the series and the transcription is obviously much later.

[1. Abraham Tilghman I to Richard Tilghman II.¹]

Dear Cosin,

After your great Kindness hath brought me your Debtor three L[etters?] since you had one from me, 'tis more than time I now make you some Return, but hope your Love will conclude as in truth it is, not proceeding from want of affection in me to write, but of conveyance by reason of the Warr, wch among other evils attending it, has hindered Relations and ffriends thus distant from conversing & exchanging affections in a desirable way—and now thanks be to God the Peace being concluded I promise myself the satisfaction of a frequent correspondence wth a kinsman who is to me so very Dear—To satisfy therefore your Enquiory [or Enquiring?] I am Son (and the only one remaining) of the late Nathaniel Tilghman wch was the son of Whetenhall wch was the son of William Tilghman of Snodland in this County of Kent wch is four Miles of Rochester where in a Lineall Descent the ffamily hath been settled for about ffour hundred years, as it plainly appears by the Records of the County—and the name seëm'd to me to have been extinguish'd except myself—for I know of no other mal [mortal?] Living after the death of my unkle Samuel's sons, but it has pleas'd God again to lighten our Lamp in that Issue of mine, w [?] wch [with which] I have acquainted you, whereunto one Son hath been added since, but dyed in about 3 months, was named Whetenhall, the others are I bless God in good health as are my wife & self—And I am Dear Cosin truly Joyfull to understand the continuance of yours, wth yl [?] of your Mother & sister wth her children and for the seeing of all of you could cheerfully undertake a long Journey by Land, being sorry the ocean seperates us, hoping that in time your occasions, may

¹ The writer was 47 years of age and the addressee 25. The latter's father, Dr. Tilghman, had been dead for 22 years in 1697, the year of writing.

bring you over, assuring you I should think it a great degree of Happiness to have a sight of you here, my sister is yet living and a widdow and so is my Cosin Cooper, the later in Ratcliff wth whom my eldest Daughter is at Board to learn what relates to the needle, goeing to Dance at a schoole hard by, wch I was willing soe to contrive as some w[?] of help to my good Cosin whose circumstances too much bespeak it, as concluding it a Duty in such to whom the Allmighty has been pleased to dispenge his Bounty wth a more liberall & open Hand to carry a Tendernes and compassionate Regard towards those (especially Relations) to whome in his All wise providence it has been more restrain'd or short, since all these sublunary things after a short Stewardship will be wrapt up in the common state of mortallity, & then accounted for to our great Master not by the Quantity of Riches acquir'd but chiefly by the uses to wch we employ our Talent. My Cosin Cooper is I think a very good Christian but she has had the weight of a great charge to support through her widdow state—to wit five children & yt in very difficult times; I pray Cosin to know from you whether your ffather, Grandfather or great Grandfather were at any time of Snodland or of what place in Kent for I never heard of any of the name but from this County; I conclude w[ith] my Prayer for your prosperity, taking leave wth very hearty Respect & Love to your Mother, sister & dear self remaining

Your truly affectionate Kinsman

Woolw^{ch}

Abr Tilghman

24 xber 97 [24 October, 1697]

To Mr Richard Tilghman at
his House on

Chester River

Maryland

On the same page, below the text of the letter appears the following concerning the condition of the *original* letter and (without break) the memorandum as to the inscription.

The seal on the above letter is gone except the *crest* which is a lion rampant with one tail—The following memorandum relating to the writer of the above letter was taken from the parish Church in Kent near Frinsted Court [In the left margin is written in the handwriting of my father “by Peregrine Tilghman of Hope Talbot Co Md”].

Abraham Tilghman Esq
of Frinsted Court
in this Parish
from those of Snodland in this Coty
Who serv'd for Thirty six years
in Naval Employment
Wherein Clark of the Cheque
at
Woolwich and Portsmouth
and after as one of the Commissioners
for victualling the Navy
Dyed Apr the 8th 1729
in the 79th year of his age
and was interr'd near this
place

On the back of the same sheet appears:

I have also seen at Hope copies of letters from Abraham Tilghman to Richard dated 31st of July 1703 to May the 1st 1740 copied from letters at the Hermitage. T. T.

The initials “T. T.” have been appended, as indicated, in the handwriting of my father. I assume that the import is that the copy was made by—or at least that the comment is quoted from—his father, Major-General Tench Tilghman, 1810-1874. It may be that the copies so seen at Hope are those from which the copies to follow were taken. I am inclined to believe that they are.

The “Warr” referred to as being concluded was the War with France which extended from 7 May 1689 to 20 Sept. 1697 which was related to the attempt to restore James II to the throne. Its American counterpart is known as “King William’s War.”

The letter indicates that Samuel Tilghman, Admiral of Maryland 1658 (Calvert Papers No. 205) had left sons surviving him but that they were dead without male issue surviving in 1697.

As to the location of the stone bearing the above inscription, see the copy of the letter from the rector at Frinsted to my father under date of 15 May 1909 in the notes at the end of this series.

[2. Richard Tilghman II to Abraham Tilghman II.]

The copy from which the following is transcribed bears no address. It is, however, with others showing the addressee to be Abraham Tilghman. Like those of the letters which follow, the basic copy is on paper estimated to date from about 1790.

Chester river in Maryland 2 July

Dr. Sir

1734

I received your letter by Mr. Blake with much Joy for I really thought our names were extinct in England not having but one letter now since your Father returned from the vitualing office into the Country tho I wrote several and directed them as he desired. I gladly imbrace the opportunity of renewing a correspondence with you perhaps it may be some Satisfaction to you to know when and in what manner one of your names and family wandered into this remote part of the world (for then it was so esteemed) be pleased therefore to be informed that in the year 1660 my father Richard Tilghman who was brend a Surgeon with my mother a son and daughter came into this province and brought with him a tolerable fortune and settled in the place where I now live they had many children but all the males died before marriage excepting myself I was born in the year 1672 and my father died in 75 my Mother lived a widow 20 odd years In the year 1700 I married Anna Maria one of the daughters of Capt Philemon Lloyd who is now living we have eight children 5 sons and 3 daughters My daughters are all married Mary married Mr. James Earle she is 32 years old has 3 sons 2 daugts. Henrietta Maria to Mr George Robins she is 27 years of age and has 2 daugts Anna Maria to Mr William Hemsley she is 25 years of age has one Son & 3 daugts My son Richard is 29 William 23 Edward 21 James 18 and Mathew near 16. not any of them married I praise

God my children are dutiful and behave decently to all then— I am now one of the Ld Proprietary Council of State have been possest of several posts of honour but few of profit the latter is generally given to such who can strongly solicit and make large promises for which I have no talent. I am very thankful to you for your kind invitation to any of my Sons that may come to England and do not doubt your Friendship to any of them if an opportunity should offer at present I have no prospect of crossing the Ocean for the politer parts of the world for some of them may have inclinations to that [any?] of them I am not of ability to bear the Expence and make a decent provision for them here however (I praise God) I am content I can make desires conform to my circumstances I can eat my bread with thankfulness and take my rest in peace I have by me an old imperfect manuscript where in among many trifling affairs I find the names of many of my name and family in the year 1540 I find William Tilghman the Elder with the arms of William Tilghman drawn with a pen and William the younger had a male in 1542 Edward and in 1543 Henry who died in 1576 I find Wheternal Tilghman in 1579 Oswald in 1582 Charles in 1584 Lambert but who is the father of these I am at a loss to know for it dos not seam probable that it should be William the younger because of the distance of time between the birth of Henry and Wheternal besides there is a difference in the hand writing it is most probable that Edward was the Son of William the younger in the year 1555 he was bound prentince to serve eight years in 1561. William Tilghman the younger stood Godfather to Alexander son of Edward Tilghman Wheterhall Tilghman married Ellen his Wife in the year 1607 and his issue Mary Samuel Isaac Nathaniel Susan Joseph James and Samuel Bengimin, Samuel Tilghman son of Wheternall was married to Allice Cox the 17th day of May 1645 My Fathers name was Richard born in the year 1626 Sn of Oswald Tilghman which I suppose was Brother to Wheternall their dwelling places were Snodland & East & West Malling if by the parish funds of Snodland or any other you could come to a clear

Knowledge of our family we should be very much oblidge to you for the information

This Sir is the last information I can give of descent I am mistaken if your father did not inform me that he descended from Whetehall Tilghman As you goe to London sometimes I shall take it a favor if you please to take the trouble to get me the coat of arms of our family when and by whom obtained and what else may be nesary on such occasion the charge that arises thereupon I desire Mr. Samuel Hyde Merchant in London to pay and charge to my account my wife and children joyn with me in our kindest respects to you and yrs & that you may all Injoy health and prosperity is the fervent prayer of yr affectionate Humble Servt R T

Inclose yr letters directed to me to Mr Samuel Hyde Mercht in London as they will come safe to hand.

Here we find Richard Tilghman, II of The Hermitage, first of the line to be born in Maryland, already in his sixty-second year, and having previously been Chancellor of the Province of Maryland, resuming a correspondence with relatives in England, although it appears that some, and possibly all, of the prior correspondence was with the present addressee's father Abraham Tilghman the elder. Had he been familiar with the records in the Registers of All Saints Church, Snodland, co. Kent, he would not, as he says, have been "at a loss to know" whether William Tilghman (the younger) was the father of "Wheternal," Oswald, Charles, and Lambert Tilghman, since the register records that paternity in each case at baptism. He quotes from a family register brought to Maryland by his father Dr. Richard Tilghman.

In a reprint of the Registers of St. Dionis Backchurch London 1538-1754 (Harleian Society publications) the following appears among the burials: "1661 Oct 9. A child of Mr Tilmans, the Chirurgion."

[3. Richard Tilghman II to Abraham Tilghman II.]

Obviously a retained copy, the following is endorsed to show that the original was from Richard Tilghman to Abraham Tilghman, the endorsement being in pencil.

Chestertown in Maryland 16th of Sept 1735

Dear Sir

not having received a line from you since I wrote you at

large in Answer to yours of the eleventh of January 1733 by Mr. Blake fills me with fearful Apprehensions that you are deceased. If you are in the Land of the living be pleased to be informed, that my family are in the same state as when I last wrote except myself who am reduced to great weakness by a violent fever that took me on the fifteenth Day of April last & continued till my life was despaired off by my phisicians and all that saw me. However it has pleased Almighty God in some measure to restore me to my former health for which his holy name be praised. I can now walk in my garden or Orchard but being advanced in years cannot expect to recover my former Ability. 'Tis true Gods power is unlimited and his mercy is great for such Blessings as he is pleased to grant me, I will be thankful and intirely submit to his will and pleasure. Dear Kinsman I affectionately Salute you and your family for whose health prosperity the earnest shall not be wanting of

Your Affectionate Kinsman and humble Servant

R. T.

[4. Richard Tilghman III to Abraham Tilghman II.]

Copy of a letter endorsed in pencil to show that the original was addressed to Abraham Tilghman (in England).

Chester River in Md August 14 1737

Dear Sir

Agreeable to your request I have sent a Cask of rum by Capt Doinl [?] Watts consigned by Mr. Cartwright Wilmer with the Stirling value thereof. I have also sent a parrot recommended to his care wch I hope will please my little Kinswomen Tho our circumstances will not permit a personal acquaintance I shall be very glad to improve the correspondence now begun after the most friendly and agreeable manner and shall be always pleased whenever I have an opportunity of being serviceable to you and desire you will use the greatest freedom whenever you have an inclination for any thing I can procure and

now Sir I must beg of you if it will not be too troublesome to get me a dog of that sort called a good terrier and send by Capt William Anderson who is in the employment of Mr. James Buchanan Merchant in London & will be glad of an acquaintance he sails into our river & is very convenient in our Family I shall be glad to hear of the health and prosperity of you and yours and am with kindest wishes

Your affectionate Kinsman and humble Servant

R Tilghman

The letter from Abraham Tilghman dated at Frinsted, England, Feby 9th 1737/8 to "Mr. Richd Tilghman Jun^r" (No. 6 *post*) is so obviously a response to the above as to indicate that the writer of the said letter of August 14, 1737, is Richard Tilghman III of The Hermitage, born 1705, writing, however, in the lifetime of his father, whose eldest living son he then was, an elder brother Philemon Tilghman (named for his maternal grandfather, Philemon Lloyd 1646-1685) having died young. This is the more apparent from the fact that a separate letter dated February 8th, 1737/8 (*i. e.* but one day before the one to Richard Jun^r.) is addressed to Rich^d Tilghman Esqr. (See No. 5 *post*).

Richard Tilghman II died 23 Jan. 1738, and Richard Tilghman III died 9 Sept. 1766. For the will of Richard Tilghman II, see *Maryland Calendar of Wills*, Vol. VIII, pp. 17 and 18.

[5. Abraham Tilghman II to Richard Tilghman II.]

This is addressed on the back "To Rehd Tilghman Esqr. At his house on Chester River, Maryland."

February 8th 1737/8

Dear Sir

It was a great comfort to me to find by yr Favour of August last that yr family continues to enjoy the Blessings of Health and prosperity (except the mortality of yr eldest Daughter & one of yr Sons in Law wch being the common lot of all must be submitted to with resignation as the will of God)

Since I received yrs the Ld of Fairfax my neighbour of whom you sent me some account is returned from hither to Determine

a con[?] of the Council as to the Limits of his grant of parts of Virginia w^{ch} are now in question between his magesty & Lordship who tells me his Designs to return to Virginia this Spring if the dispute be ended as he hopes it may I should be glad to acq^{nt} you with any agreeable news and more especially that unhappy difference between the King & the Prince was over there having been much talk of an approaching Reconciliation lately but it is now over and seems as far off as ever however the parlament go on to raise the Supplies in a smooth way, as it is said there will be no mencon of this Difference this Session.

My wife joins me in true respect for yourself and Lady & all yr Family and with sincere wishes that continue to hear of the well being of yours and you I rest

Dear Sir

Yr affect humble Servt

Abra Tilghman

I forgot to acqt [acquaint] yr Son in my Lre to him that Capt Watts would take no freight for my rum & that I am much obli[ged] to him for his care & civilities.

Mary, the eldest child and daughter of Richard Tilghman II, who married James Earle, died 10 January 1736. She was born 23 Aug. 1702 and married 12 Oct. 1721. She left issue including Captain Michael Earle mentioned elsewhere in this correspondence. Anna Maria, the third daughter of Richard Tilghman II, was born 15 Nov. 1709. Married first, William Hemsley and secondly, Col. Robert Lloyd of "Hope" Talbot County, Maryland. It appears that her first husband is the son-in-law referred to in this letter.

The King of England in 1737-8 was George II who reigned from 11 June 1727 to 25 October 1760. He was then succeeded by his grandson George III. The heir apparent was Frederic Louis, who died in 1751.

[6. Abraham Tilghman II to Richard Tilghman III.]

Endorsed: To Mr. Richd Tilghman Jun^r on Chester River Maryland.

Frinsted Feby 9th 1737/8

Dr Sir

I return my kind thanks for yr trouble in sending me the kask of Rum w^{ch} proves very good the acco—you sent my Friend Mr. Wilmer is paid to Mr H[?] as you ordered Poor poll had the missfortune to go to the Leeward in a storm to the great concern of the Girls, who thank you for your kind intention I have it my buisness to sort out a good terrior for you they are a kind most difficult to meet with of But I have had the good fortune to get a Bitch of a Breed of the most Best Reputaition in Kingdom She is just to years old, and lies in the ground at fox or bay (I am told) as well as any can do though she has not so much Tongue as some have she is said to be very hardy and not to matter any bittering Her name is Doxy and I send her by Cap^t Anderson as you desired who is said will sail in 10 days time & she will be with him next week. I shall be glad to hear if she proves to your likeing if she will not I will endeavour to get you another if there be anything Else wise[?] or pleasure you would have from hence that I can procure you may with freedom command

Dr Sir

Yr Affec^t Kinsman & humble Serv^t

Abr Tilghman

Pray tender my best services to yr Bros and Sisters and cousins You will please to convey the inclosed as directed.

[7. Abraham Tilghman II to Richard Tilghman III.]

The back page of the following shows the letter to be addressed: "For Richd Tilghman Esqr on Chester river Maryland To the care of Capt W^m Anderson with a small box."

Frinsted in Kent May 1st

Dear Sir

1740

I have the favour of yrs dated 15th of December together with the Ring in memory of yr Father for both w^{ch} I thank you as also for the character of him you gave me w^{ch} Corresponds much with the Idea I had conceived of him & my Esteem arising therefrom; I am much pleased to find that yr family and relations continue to prosper and shall be always glad to hear the same repeated as often as you can favour me wth it; I thank God my family are all well & my girls now 12 & 13 begin to look up as if in a little time they would commence womanhood & enter on that part w^{ch} may be assigned to them to act on the stage of this world. They join with my wife and self in kind respects to yr self Lady and all our relations. As the war has been opened in your part of the globe I must not attempt to send you news that we expect from you but the sentiment of most here that the war will not be of long continuance I send you herewith a cornelian Seal Ring wth the coat & crest of the Tilghmans as we now bear it ² & as it ought to be by all the Evidences in the Herald. You will observe a difference in the crest from the Impression on yr[?] yours being a Demilion Rampant whereas this is a Demilion Issuant ³ Resting on the wreath & therefor no taile Seen also that the Coat has 2 Tailles twisted both w^{ch} Differences are confirmed by Glover who was an Herald about the reign of Elizabeth & is esteemed an oracle by the office of Heraldry & as to the Tailles it further appears to be double twisted by three Coates of armour painted on Glass w^{ch} I have sometimes since removed from the Holloway Court in Snodland in Kent (long the Chief residence of our Common Ancestors) to my house here by leave of Ld Romney the present possessor of Holloway I think it not so well Cept ⁴ as it might

² Here a word apparently of three letters which I cannot decipher.

³ In the basic copy, the word is apparently "Issuany."

⁴ So in the copy. It seems that the original was "cut."

have been Such as it is I pray yr acceptance of together with my Sincere assurances that I am Dr Sir

Your Affect Kinsman & very Humble Servt

Abra Tilghman

[8. Abraham Tilghman II to Richard Tilghman III.]

This letter is addressed "To Coll Richd Tilghman on Chester River in Maryland."

Frinsted near [Lenham] Kent Mar 21st 1743

Dear Sir

Your favour of the 15th of March 40 I lost opportunity of answering by Mr Earle's going unexpectedly in the Transport service with stores to Admiral Vernon of which his letter by my being from home when it came gave me too late advice. The fans you were so kind to order, my daughters received and desire their hearty thanks Returned with due complements to your self and Lady. The eldest this day enters her 17th year They have been sometime preparing and are both to be Inoculated with the small pox about the 3rd of April They are healthy and as they are very desirous of this opperation I accede to it with fear and trembling commit them to Providence Nothing gives me more pleasure than the prosperity of your family and relations pr yours of 13th Oct last I pray God continue it to you and them and complete it by Mrs. Robins recovery which I hope to hear by yr I shall omit no oppertunity of continuing our correspondence and think myself unlucky in having missed of Mr Earle when lately in London and more so that his affairs [do] not permit him to come hither where he would have been most welcome whenever he returns to England I desire to see him as soon as he arrives and any other of his relations coming over will oblige me with a visit

Public affairs hear have changed hands since my last, whether the face of them is changed for the better remains a dispute to intricate for me to Determine (be that as it will) the vast

expences we are now by land & sea & the taxes raised to support are so many & heavy that it is probable the American possessions of Great Bretania, may in few years be most Eleggible for freedom and opulence & become more populous than the old Island. Thus far I may adventure to say that nothing amongst the most Extraordinary measures of the last 20 years Administration has given so great & general disgust as the Hireing 16,000 Hanoverians from our own King to be paid by us at an Exorbitant rate 657,888 being given for them from the 31st of August to the 25 December 43 being 16 months pay for one campaign only: we are hereby brought into great divisions & the present Distinction is Hannovian or Englishman what may be the consequences as god only knows must be left to him & we are to hope the best. I spair the mention of the removals as supposeing you have the papers and magazines with you as we have I desire my best respects to your Mother, Lady, & all my relations wherein my wife and girls join me and with hearty prayers for your Health and prosperity

I am Dear Sir

Your very affectionate Kins^m and Obt Servant

Abra Tilghman

Mary, the eldest sister of the addressee, had married James Earle in 1721. Both were already dead, leaving male issue, before this letter was written. It is indicated by subsequent letters that "Mr. Earle" was Captain Michael Earle, one of their sons. Admiral Vernon captured Porto Bello in Darien on 22 Nov. 1739 and with Wentworth engaged in a futile attack upon Carthagera in 1740.

The "Broad Bottom Ministry" of Pelham, Pitt, Newcastle, Harrington (Stanhope) and Bedford came into power in Nov. 1740. This may be the event to which the writer refers when he says: "Public affairs hear have changed hands since my last." His further comment as to what the then future may have in store for the American colonies, and the reasons which may cause them to seek their freedom is remarkably prophetic. His words as to a wasteful and self-serving ruler are likewise worthy of continuing appreciation.

[9. Abraham Tilghman II to Richard Tilghman III.]

The following is endorsed on the back: "To Coll Richd Tilghman on Chester River Maryland."

Frinsted in Kent Feby

Dr Sir

174 $\frac{3}{4}$

Mr. Earle was so good as to leave yr Favour of the 26 [16?] of August wth the post at Sittenborn as he went by land to London with advice of the Shippe Arrival w^{ch} gave sooner the pleasure of understanding yr welfare of yourself & that of yr relations than w^{ch} nothing can be more agreeable to me; I heartily wish you joy of the addition to yr family may continue to increase in number and Lustre. Mrs. Robins recovery is the more happy as the Disorders of the mind are more terrible & generally worse to get over than those of the body. I pray God she may continue well to yr mutual Comfort We had great success in Inoculating my two girls. They came out regularly and with exactly the same symtoms though differing in numbers The eldest not above 60 the other 200 in all the first had only 4 about so in her face as well as the other and those not deep they Kept their beds three days more from precaution than necessity and have good health since for w^{ch} being delivered so well from the dread of that distemper we thank God heartily.

Their have been unavoidable Obstructions hitherto preventing Mr Earles kind intention of seeing us here & his unexpected return so soon is likely to deny us the pleasure of seeing him this voyage also, but he is to be recommended for applying himself so closely & willingly to buisness

Public affairs are now in a very uncertain State the administration having been put into a consternation by the Breast Squadron of 21 sail appearing on our coast a^{bt} 10 days past his magesty sent a message to the house of Lords last Tuesday what we had certain advice of the pretender's Son having Land in France & in concert with his Friends was to land some forces upon from thence on w^{ch} the Lords voted a proper address of support & on the like message to the Commons after long They

voted another address to the same purpose The Lords address was not presented on Thursday as indended his magesty being indisposed with a cold Sir John Morris is sailed at length with three other admirals & a squadron of large Ships from w^{ch} we expect to hear hourly wether the mon Sieurs will hand it or put off as we are in like expectations of news from Admiral Matthews who is looking for the Toulon Squadron I pray God to defend us & you from all our enemies and send us peace & truth

My wife joins wth me in kind respects to yr self and Lady & fire side & to yr mother if living wishing you and them all health & prosperity I rest sincerely Dr Sir

Yr very affect^t hble Servt

Abra Tilghman

“Mrs. Robins” seems to be the next younger sister of the addressee, born 1707 and in 1731 married to George Robins. After his death in 1743, she married William Goldsborough, and died in 1771.

The English physician Jenner is credited with being the discoverer of vaccination. He was born in 1749. Note that the “inoculations” (which the context seems to indicate were for small pox) occurred before he was born.

Upon the death of James II in 1701 (who, however, had ceased to be King of Great Britain upon his flight in 1688 when his efforts to disregard the Constitution had proven abortive) Louis XIV of France declared “James Edward,” the son of the former king, King of Great Britain and Ireland. This pretense never became fact but France continued to annoy England with it until long afterwards. England in 1743/4 was also involved in the War of the Austrian Succession, against France.

[10. Richard Tilghman III to Abraham Tilghman II.]

The back page shows that the succeeding letter is a copy of one addressed: To Mr. Abraham Tilghman Capt in the Navy 1750. The words “Capt in the Navy” have (probably by some person before whom the paper came subsequent to the making of the original copy) a pencil line drawn through them. The fact is that Abraham Tilghman (the elder) had a connection with the British Admiralty, as has already been shown.

Chester River in Maryland March 15th 1750

Dear Sir

Tis long since I had the pleasure of a letter from you Tho' I have wrote every year but the two last which made me conclude you were dead & occasioned my writing by Capt Lloyds last voyage, But I desired him to enquire of Mr. Wilmer from whom he had the Satisfaction of hearing of your being alive & well & gone out of Town but a day or two before his Enquiry, the good old Lady my mother departed this life the 15th day of December 1740 in the 72 year of her age much lamented having desireably acquired the Love and esteem of all persons who had the happiness of her acquaintance. Since my last I have been blest with a lovely boy who we call William and will be two years old To morrow and next month another little one if Children are riches you see I shall be very wealthy. Mr. William Anderson a merchant in the tobacco trade who married one of my nieces is the person with whom I now correspond and will take care of any letters you will please to favour me My wife joins me in good wishes for and kind regards to yourself & Lady and daughters. I am dear Sir

Your most affect Kinsman

R Tilghman

While the letter does not establish it, the probabilities favor the assumption that both Capt. Lloyd and Mr. Wilmer were relatives of the writer. His mother, whose death he records therein, was born Anna Maria, the daughter of Philemon Lloyd of Wye House. The figures in the letter, if correct, set the year of her birth as 1668 (or 9?) which would have made her age 32 years at the time of her marriage in 1700.

The figure in the basic copy is clearly "1740." It seems unlikely, however, that ten years would pass without the writer announcing the death of his mother. If she died in December 1748 and in her 72nd year, her death would still have occurred two years prior to the date of this letter. Her children were born between 1702 and 1718 inclusive.

The letter's dates as to her are not in accord with those drawn from other sources. Her birth is shown as 1676 and her death as Dec. 1748 in *Maryland Historical Magazine*, I, 281 (Dr. Christopher Johnston's sketch of the Tilghman Family) but in *Maryland Historical Magazine*, VII, 424 (the same authority in his sketch of the Lloyd Family) her

birth is shown as in 1677. It seems likely that the transcriber of this letter miswrote 1748 as 1740, in giving the date of her death.

The "lovely boy" William Tilghman is shown by Dr. Johnston as the fourth son of Richard Tilghman III and as having been born 11 March 1745, and died Dec. 1800. He is known as William Tilghman of the White House, Queen Anne Co. Although thrice married, his only child to survive infancy was a daughter by his third wife (*Maryland Historical Magazine*, I, 372). Note that the next son of Richard Tilghman III was Edward Tilghman, born about 1747 and who died young. Except for the entry of the name William in the letter it would appear from the time factor that he was the "lovely boy." According to other sources, a daughter Elizabeth (the progenatrix of the Cooke-Tilghmans) was born in April 1749, and a daughter Susanna in 1751. It seems impossible to reconcile these records exactly with the date of the letter.

Sarah Covington married first Edward Lloyd (1670-1718/9) the maternal-uncle of Richard Tilghman III, and secondly (in 1721) James Hollyday of Readbourne. It appears that she had six children by the first marriage and three by the second. Her fourth child Rebecca Covington Lloyd, born 11 June 1713, married William Anderson, merchant of London.⁵ This is doubtless the one to whom the writer refers, as "husband of my niece" (*Maryland Historical Magazine*, VII, 425; also *The Early History of the Hollyday Family 1297-1800*, by Henry Hollyday, at page 12).

[11. Abraham Tilghman II to Richard Tilghman III.]

Frinsted near Lenham Kent

26th January 1760

I am now Sir to acknowledge the rect of yr kind [letter] of enquiry offer me, dated 29 August 1758 where in you mencon Mr. Franklin; whom I have since seen at Maidstone (where his father lived formerly) Elijah Tilghman I have no knowledge of yet & shall be glad to hear who his father was & of what place if you can come at it

I am much pleased to find you have 4 daughters & 2 sons remaining who may probably continue the name many years which will now be extinct here in my Daughter Crompt. I heartily wish you & yours all prosperity

⁵ Also mentioned in letters of Charles Carroll, Barrister. See this *Magazine*, Vols. XXXI, XXXII, and the present issue, *passim*—Editor M. H. M.

As to public affairs the new King and the new Administration so keep the present attention Mr Pitt continues to have the management of Affairs but is said to be rivalled by Lord Bute groom of the Stole & first Lord of the Bed Chamber to his Majesty & late prime minister & major Dome (o?) to the princes Dowager of Wales The Ha[] here [receive] from his Mage[ty] so much disgust from the People (or the setters on) that they have twice driven his Lord ship from the play house when attending on the King there. These irregularities are Disag[reeable] & but seldom useful and (This notwithstanding all people continue in great Expectation from his Majesty's Equity virtue & discernment[?] of good future times. That of peace is more wished for than is known

I congratulate you on your success in America which I hope will make you Easy untill peace may fix your security; and as it is now Said an Expectation is soon going for the Mississippi I hope that & the means you may find of quitting the Cherokees may end all your uneasiness & give you a long rest

Great commotions distend Ireland at present a new parliament there depends on the demise of the King and the members Elected for their lives unless the death of the king dissolves them and (by their laws) the privy council there is on that occasion & draw a bill and send it to the king with a petition that a new parliament may be called to consider of and pass that bill into an act and such other acts as the public good may require and it has been usual that the Bill sent be a money bill but what now sent was Road bill which has given such offence here that [orders?] are sent to Ireland that if a money bill be sent immediately in due form the Lords justices are to be removed & a new privy council named This wth the usual disorders attending the canvassing for Elections all over Ireland occasion very great disturbances there

My son in law Mr. Crompton writes to you here with & in case of my disability or Decease will Gladly keep up a correspondence you or yr family which possibly may some time or other prove of service to some of our posterity and cannot prejudice any of them

My wife enjoys but little health and grows in years as I do myself being Entered on my 69 year the 17th inst I hope last paragraph will hasten[?] I pray you will let me know Lord Fairfax goes on in Virginia whether his Lands are more planted than when he came thither He was my neighbour & again [] and the character of a very worthy gentleman on his leaving Kent he gave up a very fine estate to his younger Brother who has made a prodigious Alteration in the old Castle of Leeds the seat of the family & the park Cascades and plantations belonging to it are the finest in our Country & the possessor generally beloved [being] one of the present Knights of the Shire for Kent pray what are the present Lands and plantations of my Ld said to be worth and to yield I heartily wish many happy years to you and Lady & yr family & with much esteem dear Sir

Yr Affectionate kinsman & most obedt Servt

Abra Tilghman

I desire to be heartily remembered to yr brother & to Capt Earle I have omitted to mencon my sons family is in the way to increase.

The reference to "Mr. Franklin" is apparently to Benjamin Franklin who went to England about 1757 to lay the subject of the dispute between the people of Pennsylvania and the proprietary government before the privy council. In 1762 he returned to America.

Note the enquiry regarding "Elijah Tilghman." The name does not appear among either the descendants of Dr. Richard Tilghman or his ancestors for six generations. The Biblical names in the family began with those of the sons of Whetenhall Tilghman, and are concentrated in that line. The four sons of Richard Tilghman III then living were Richard IV, Peregrine, James, and William, and the two daughters Elizabeth and Susanna. Anna Maria was yet to be.

The will of Aaron Tilghman of Somerset County, Maryland, probated 8 June 1779, mentions a brother Elijah.

It is evident from the present letter that a daughter of Abraham Tilghman (though whether the elder or the younger—their ages were but a year apart—does not appear) had married Rev. P. Crompt before 1760. The "son" of the postscript appears to be he.

The "new King" is of course George III, who succeeded his grandfather George II, who died 25 Oct. 1760. This fact seems to indicate

error in the date of the letter. Pitt resigned 5 Oct. 1761. Lord Bute was then the accepted adviser of the king. He formed a ministry 29 May 1762. The Princess Dowager of Wales was apparently the mother of George III.

[12. Rev. P. Crompton to Richard Tilghman III.]

The first of the incoming letters not signed by "Abra. Tilghman" follows, though the context indicates that he is still alive. If so, he was in his 70th year. It does not show the place of writing, but doubtless it was Frinsted.

January 24th 1761

Sir

Being happily into Mr. Tilghmans family I am extriemly glad to embrace any opportunity of making myself better known to his relations; and as a personal knowledge from the distant situation is impractible an Epistolary correspondence is the only resource We have & should be as I hope it should always be carefully kept up & improved. It is a comfortable reflection to us who have friends & relations in your parts that by our successes under General Amherst; they are freed from the troublesome & bloody incursions of the Indian Savages and that now every man may sit under his own vine & fig tree & enjoy the sweet of his Labour The mischief has now crept southward, but I hope that either by fair play or fowl the Cherokees may be quieted and an uninterrupted Peace reign throughout the whole Continent of North America; It were indeed to be wished that a general peace would set us all to rest, but matters are upon so equal a footing in Germany that it can scarce be expected yet; our Army has suffered much there, more by the weather & by fatigue, than by the sword, but we are still able to look the french in the face & the King of Prussia by the victory of the close of the last campaign has much ammended his affairs indeed almost beyond expectations so that in all probability another Campaign will be necessary to forware the good work of Peace

I remember to have seen Captain Earle in England 10[?] or

15 years ago. I beg leave to desire my Complements to that Gentleman My wife joins with me in kindest respects to your self your Lady & all your family & I beg leave to assure you that I am Sir

Your affectionate and humble Serv^t

P Crompt

Amherst and Wolfe captured Louisburg 26 July 1758. Amherst captured Ticonderoga 26 July 1759. Both of these events preceded the expedition of Wolfe from Louisburg against Quebec. The Battle of the Plains of Abraham occurred 13 September 1759 and after the surrender of Quebec on the 18th of September, 1759, Montreal and all Canada were surrendered by the French to the English on 8 September 1760. Some or all of these events were doubtless in the mind of the writer. In Germany, Frederick the Great was (1756-1763) engaged in the Seven Years' War, and until the accession of George III to the throne of England had the support of George II "moved by anxiety for his principality of Hanover." Frederick suffered a defeat at Kunersdorf in August 1759 but gained important victories in 1760.

"Captain Earle" appears to be (from *Old Kent* at pp. 231-2) Capt. Michael Earle, eldest son of James Earle and his wife Mary, the daughter of Richard Tilghman II of The Hermitage. He was born 19 October 1722 and "followed the sea for several years, sailing from Frederick Town, Cecil County. When he retired from a sea-faring life he settled upon his farm, Swan Harbor, in Cecil, and married Mary Carroll, a sister of his uncle Edward Tilghman's wife, and a relative of Lord Baltimore. They died without child in 1787, the same day, and were buried in the same grave at St. Stephen's Church."

[13. Richard Tilghman III to Rev^d. P. Crompt.]

[Date not given; evidently after June 1763]

Rev^d Sir

I received your obliging letter of the 24th January 1761 acquainting me with your marriage with Miss Tilghman my relation with whom I wish you all imaginable happiness & your desire to keep up an Epistolary Correspondence as a personal acquaintance from the distance of our situations was impracticable, By the return of the Shippe I did myself the pleasure of answering your Letter I suppose mine was lost in

going home the Ship being taken, the Letter probably destroyed, last year I did not write being extremely reduced by an intermitting fever about the time of our fleets sailing. my second son perrigain Tilghman. I am in hopes he will deliver you this, he makes a voyage this summer to London in order to purchase a Cargo of goods for our parts And I have ordered him to visit you and make no doubt he will have a kind reception Omit no opportunity of Keeping up a Correspondence with a Gentleman who is married to (Tis but too probable) the only relation of my name in England. I can Hardly hope from Mr. Abraham Tilghmans last letter that he is now in being if he is pray give my harty welcome to him with assurance that my not writing to him is from a persuasion that he is no more. Tis impossible I should ever see any of Descendants here my Children probably may for if you and my Kinswomen go on at the rate set out you will perhaps send some of yours to seek their fortunes our way where Comfortable Estates moderate beginnings with care and Industry are to be made. If it should happen I shall leave directions with my family to treat them as relations and Gentlemen Tho we have peace with the french we are not quite Easy many of the Northern Indians made an attack about the middle of June on the several forts to the westward of our provinces in pensilvania and have destroyed many of the Smaller ones and Killed several of the People on the borders of the two provinces, Pittsburg and detroit both been attackt but not distroyed by the Savages How this war with the Indians will end probably in their Extirpation. They say tho we beat the french we have no right to take possession of their lands I tendered y^r Compliments for Mr Michael Earle as he requested for which he is thankful he remembers you when at Mr. Tilghmans. He has been long married to a relation of my wifes an agreeable lady but has no Children I wrote Mrs Tilghman the 14th[—?] 1763 that my family was increased with a charming little girl we call her Anna Maria after Grandmother Tilghman She is now turned 3 years old Since the 9th of June last a lovely Child and I dare believe our last the play thing of the family my Spouse joins with me in

Kindest wishes for yourself and Lady the health of Mr and Mrs Tilghman if living and little ones and be assured I am with much esteem Yr affect

humble Servt

R Tilghman

My brother Matthews oldest daughter Margaret was lately married to Charles Carrol Esqr of an agreeable person and fine fortune.

Lacking a date, many points in the context fix it with considerable accuracy. The attack by "the Northern Indians" at a time identified as "about the middle of June" (that is to say, the June last past) established the year as 1763. It was in that year that Pontiac, chief of the Ottawas, with allies, attempted to seize the fort at Detroit on May 7th. He was foiled in this but the war extended all along the line from the Mississippi to Canada. The name of the month of 1763 not legible, may be "Jy" or possibly "Sep."

The marriage of Margaret, daughter of Matthew Tilghman, to Charles Carroll, the barrister (here referred to as having occurred "lately") took place in June 1763. Their home "Mount Clare" is now Carroll Park, Baltimore.

The year of birth of the writer's daughter "Anna Maria" is given in Dr. Johnston's sketch of the family (*Maryland Historical Magazine*, I) as 1759. Note, however, that the letter must be no earlier than the Pontiac War and therefore not before June 1763. A child "3 years old Since the 9th of June last" would have therefore been born in 1760.

[14. Rev^d P. Crompton to Peregrine Tilghman.]

While the name of the addressee of the final letter, does not appear, other data show that it is Peregrine Tilghman (1741-1807), mentioned in the preceding, who visited England in 1764. This is directly from the original.

Dear Sir,

The Time being now come when You talked of setting out for Maryland, I take the Liberty to remind You of Your Engagement to visit us once more before You sail; The more Time You please to spend with Us, the more obliged We shall be to You. We depend on seeing You that We may send Letters by

You to Your Father; If You give Us any Notice of Your Intentions Horses shall meet You at Sittingbourn to bring You hither. We are all well & join in Complements to You & if You do not leave England immediately should be glad to know when You propose to do so. I am

Sir

Yr affectionate hble Servt.

Frinsted March 24. 1764

P. Crompt.

On the flyleaf of a volume of *Paradise Lost*, published in 1758, I find the following inscription, which I believe to be in the handwriting of my great grandfather in the direct male line, namely Tench Tilghman "of Hope" (1782-1827) or partly in his father's hand:

"The Rev^d Mr Crompt to Peregrine Tilghman when at Abraham Tilghman's Esquire at Frinsted Court in the County of Kent 1764—

Presented to Tench Tilghman by his
Honored Father, Peregrine Tilghman, 1805."

Incidentally, "Subscribers Names," including that of "Rev. Mr. Crompt," are printed in this volume.

I also found between the leaves of the same book a letter from "Frinsted Rectory, Sittingbourne," apparently addressed to my late father although his name does not appear on the communication, in terms as follows:

"May 15.09

"Dear Sir

"I send you overleaf an exact copy of the register

I am,

Yours faithfully

F. M. Crapper(?)

"The House is called 'Wrinsted Court.'"

and overleaf the quoted item is:

"Abraham Tilghman Gent. was burryed the fifteenth day of April 1729. The stone is in the Church with inscription as quoted."

The said "inscription" is quoted after the first letter in this series.

